State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services
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Jim Doyle, Governor
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For Immediate Release

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PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MUMPS AT MIFFLIN STREET BLOCK PARTY
Keep Saliva to Yourself

MADISON – State health officials at the Department of Health and Family Services want to remind the 20,000 to 30,000 people that will attend Saturday's Mifflin Street block party to protect themselves against the mumps.

The mumps virus is spread through saliva, so party-goers should not share beer cups or eating utensils, and should cover their mouth and nose if they sneeze or cough. If possible, wash hands frequently or use antibacterial gel to help kill any germs.

Since many people that attend the block party are college students, most will have already received two doses of the MMR (mumps, measles, rubella) vaccine to protect them against the virus. (Since 1990, state law has required that students have two doses of MMR upon entering kindergarten.) The effectiveness rate of two doses of MMR vaccine is estimated to be about 90-95% and should provide lifelong immunity.

State public health officials are closely monitoring mumps cases in Wisconsin. The first case occurred in the state on March 20, 2006. The Department routinely monitors the state, nation and world for a variety of diseases, including the mumps, and is working with local health departments and infection control experts across the state to help minimize the spread of the mumps virus.

Wisconsin currently has 36 laboratory confirmed cases of mumps in individuals age 3-83 years old, including one UW-Madison student.

For information about the mumps, go to the Department's website at http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/.
The UW-Madison University Health Services website is available at www.uhs.wisc.edu.
More information is also available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at http://www.cdc.gov/.

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